



The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Three

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RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

REV. DR. BRUCE C. RIVERA
CHAIR

JOHN W. DUDLEY
DISTRICT MANAGER

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 12/8/2020
 Place: Remote Teleconference
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Kolaco Acqui
 Jerry Aviles
 Joetta Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Vladimir Cruz
 Nelson Delerme
 Joshua Diaz
 Maurice Gray
 Abdul Johnson
 Marilyn Johnson
 Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Abraham Jones
 Rita Jones
 Linda Kemp
 Victor Latimer
 Una Lawrence
 Tracie Lucas Lord
 Aubrey Mike
 Gina L. Newton
 Paul Navarro
 Aazam Otero
 Laila Patino
 Anddy Perdomo
 Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera
 Olympia Jay Striplin
 Keziah Sullivan
 D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas
 Sarah Torres
 Patrick Willis

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 John W. Dudley

Members Excused

Gloria Alston
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Randy Dillard
 Wanda Ellis

Members Absent

Joyce Almeida
 Xiomara Arriola
 Wilbert Tee Lawton
 Pablo Mendoza
 Wilson Ramirez

CM Vanessa Gibson's Office

CM Vanessa L. Gibson
 Michael Ivory

CM Rafael Salamanca's Office

CM Rafael Salamanca
 Shanna Knotts

SS Luis R. Sepulveda's Office

SS Luis R. Sepulveda
 Latanya Christin

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Rev. Dr. Frederick Crawford 1 st Vice-Chairperson	Joetta Brown 2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Keziah Sullivan Secretary	Kathy Johnson Morris Treasurer	Rita Jones Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian
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Bronx Borough President's Office

Alexis Ruiz

DA Darcel Clark Office

Robert Barnes

Call To Order

Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Rivera, chair of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

Invocation

Rev. Frederick Crawford led us in prayer.

Elected Officials' Reports

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera stated that anyone from the community or board member, who would like for a question to be conveyed to any of the elected officials, can type their question in the chat box and your inquiry will be forwarded to the elected official in question.

Comptroller's Office

Mr. Khadim Niang, representative from the Comptroller's Office, wished everyone a great holiday and stated that we are looking towards brighter days. Mr. Niang uploaded the **2020 Work and Family Survey**, The survey relates to "A Better Balance" about flexibility in the workplace and how work relationships and family are changing due to COVID-19. . Mr. Niang requested that everyone upload the link, complete the survey and disseminate it to those they know. This document has been forwarded to Bronx Community Board Three for distribution to those on its list serve.

SS Luis Sepulveda's Report – 32nd Senate District

State Senator Luis Sepulveda from the 32nd Senatorial District, stated the he is currently at the NYS Conference Annual Retreat. A lot of the conversations in Bronx County are about food, face masks and COVID. SS Sepulveda stated that he and his staff are still providing PPE and masks to the residents within Bronx County, and that he has an inventory of thousands of masks to be distributed to residents of Bronx County. The legislative session will start in a few weeks and the SS will be sponsoring and co-sponsoring certain legislation that is geared towards protecting tenants from being evicted when the moratorium is lifted. The SS is also sponsoring and co-sponsoring legislation for landlords and commercial businesses, to help pay their mortgages to enable them to stay open. The SS stated that there are several small business loans and grants available to commercial owners to assist them during this crisis. SS Sepulveda did not provide a written report, at this time. Please contact the State Senator's office to request information on initiatives and resources at 718-991-3161 or email his office at team@senatorsepulveda.com.

Ms. Latanya Christin, representative from SS Luis Sepulveda's office, stated that the SS is recommending that everyone get tested due to the increase rate of positive COVID cases. Testing sites were put on the chat. The SS wished everyone a safe holiday.

Bronx Borough President's Report

Alexis Ruiz , representative from the Bronx Borough President's Office, sent the latest newsletter to boards which was emailed to those on Bronx Community Board Three's list serve. Mr. Ruize spoke on the following:

- The BP's office will engage in Broad Messaging to get more testing sites. Homebound adults can call 311 to request self kits to be mailed to their home via FedEx, and they will receive their results faster.
- The BP's website has case rates by zip code and has the latest testing sites which are updated every Monday.
- Members whose terms are to expire in 2021, will receive their "Reappointment Application" with a return date of February 5, 2021. Applications for new membership are available on the Bronx Borough President's website and are also due by February 5, 2021.
- The Bronx Borough President thanked all the Community Boards and staff for their untiring efforts through these unprecedented times. The Borough President also extended seasons greetings and best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season to one and all.

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SS Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Latayna Rivera noted that the office is still closed and that staff are working remotely. The office is closed for in-person visits. The SS is recommending that everyone get tested due to the rising COVID cases. Please contact the office to request information on initiatives and resources offered. The SS is also recommending that we continue to adhere to the social distancing guidelines during the holiday season. The SS office will be closed from December 19th through January 4, 2021.

Jumaane Williams – NYC Public Advocate

Mr. Brian Polanco, representative from the NYC Public Advocates office, stated that the “Constituent Services Department” is working remotely. The Public Advocate can be contacted at 212-669-7250 or via email at gethelpatadvocate.nyc.gov. Mr. Polanco wished everyone a safe holiday.

CM Vanessa Gibson’s Report – 16th Council District

CM Vanessa L. Gibson from the 16th Council District, was in attendance. CM Gibson noted that her office is continuing all efforts to provide PPE to the residents of the Bronx, along with regular distribution of her newsletter which includes time sensitive events that she hosts. CM Gibson noted that the second wave of COVID and the potential opportunity for a vaccination are looming ahead. The CM has been working closely within Community District Three in providing food; distributing over 2200 turkeys and 1100 food boxes to CBO’s, churches, community centers and partners. The CM noted that basic necessities are a struggle for many families during these times.

CM Gibson is recommending that everyone get tested for COVID and also get the Flu Shot. CM Gibson spoke briefly on the following:

- The CM is also the Co chair of the Women’s Caucus which is currently focusing on Maternal Mortality and Maternal Morbidity in African American Women and Latino Women, who are more likely to die during child birth verses their white women counterparts.
- The council is working to repeal an old archaic law “**walking while trans**” which unfairly targets the Black and Hispanic transgender community.
- A zoom meeting is scheduled with the Osborne Association for Thursday, December 10th at 6:00pm, to discuss re-entry and wrap around services proposed for that site.
- CM Vanessa Gibson announced that she is a candidate running to be elected as the next Bronx Borough President.

CM Gibson did not provide a written report, at this time. Please contact the Councilmember’s office at 718-588-7500, to request information on initiatives and resources provided or send an email to District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov.

CM Rafael Salamanca’s Report- 17th Council District

Ms. Shanna Knotts, deputy chief of staff from CM Rafael Salamanca’s office, wished everyone Happy Holidays. Ms. Knotts provided time sensitive information at this time. All information was put in the chat.

CM Salamanca wished everyone a happy holiday. The CM encouraged everyone to get tested due to increasing positive COVID rates to continue to follow social distancing rules. The CM also announced time sensitive information. Please follow CM Salamanca via social media platforms facebook or Instagram, at [CMSalamanca](#) or on twitter at [Salmancajr80](#).

Community Concerns & Announcements

- Ms. Anita Reyes, representing the NYC DOHMH, stated that COVID numbers are increasing within Community District Three. Ms. Reyes informed those in attendance that the Morrisania Health Center located at 1309 Fulton Avenue between E. 169th and E. 170th Streets, is a COVID express testing site. This site is by **appointment only, designed for testing to be completed within 15 minutes. Tests results are received the same day**. Constituents are encouraged to call 397-396-7976 and schedule their appointments. Ms. Reyes concluded by requesting that everyone avoid large gatherings and traveling during the holiday season.
- Diandra Grinage, representative from the 16th Council District, stated that she has come before Bronx Community Board Three to discuss and request a letter of support for a bill introduced in August as Int. No. 2057-2020: Providing Meals for New York City children during emergencies. This bill should be modified to provide one meal on Saturday and Sunday. Ms. Grinage is requesting a letter of support for this modification.

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- Ms. Rosado, representative of the 505 East 161st Street Tenants Association at (Boricua Village) stated that they have submitted a petition to Bronx Community Board Three, requesting assistance with parking insecurities and garbage disposal practices in the vicinity of Boricua Village. Ms. Rosado suggested if NYC DOT could look to survey the area to determine if angle parking could be installed in this vicinity. Mr. Dudley will look to schedule a meeting with all necessary agencies to address said concerns.
- Mr. Kip Jones, representative from the King Charles Troupe was no longer available; however, Ms. Lonnie Hardy agreed to speak on his behalf. Ms. Lonnie Hardy stated that Mr. Jones would like to purchase Virtual Circus tickets for all the board members to attend the virtual circus. Board members were instructed to email KingCharlesTroup@aol.com before 12/9/2020 by 9:00pm, to provide their email addresses for the virtual tickets.
- Ms. Lanita Jones, District Leader, is hosting a Christmas Giveaway at Claremont Neighborhood Center, Inc. located at 489 East 169th Street, on December 23, 2020 from 2:00pm-5:00pm. The DL is also hosting a Toy Drive at 1368 Webster Avenue on Thursday, December 17th.
- Sulay Lora, representative from SEBNC, introduced herself to those in attendance. Ms. Lora requested the assistance of Bronx Community Board Three regarding some challenges that Forest Houses SEBNC Holdings is experiencing in locating \$70,000 allotted for repairs and building improvements. The DM wanted to know some particular information in this regard and requested that they continue their conversation off line.

Mr. Dudley suggested that community residents who feel that existing Citibike station locations which are inappropriate, can identify alternate locations and include the alternate locations in an email to jdudley@cb.nyc.gov. Mr. Dudley will then forward an email to DOT for review of the alternate locations, to determine if the alternate locations are within the network grid.

Roll Call

Ms. Keziah Sullivan, secretary of Bronx Community Board Three, called the roll and a quorum was established.

Members Requesting to be Excused

Gloria Alston
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Randy Dillard
 Wanda Ellis
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.

Motion

It was motioned by Kathy Johnson-Morris and seconded by Anndy Perdomo, to excuse the following member(s):

Gloria Alston
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Randy Dillard
 Wanda Ellis
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

It was motioned by Gina Newton and seconded by Patrick Willis, to approve the November 10, 2020, General Board minutes, with any necessary corrections, if there be any.

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Amendments to the Agenda

Patrick Willis, board member, requested that consideration be given for creation of a Dog Run in the north east section of Crotona Park.

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Motion

It was motioned and seconded to amend the agenda to include the creation of a dog run in the north east section of Crotona Park under the Parks and Recreation/Youth Services Committee.

YES

NO

28

0

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Chairperson's Report

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera extended his condolences on behalf of Bronx Community Board Three to Mr. Randy Dillard and Mr. Wilson Ramirez who are currently in mourning due to the passing of their loved ones. Bronx Community Board Three extends its condolences to those who have lost a loved one during these times.

- Rev. Dr. Rivera suggested that we continue to adhere to the social distancing and get tested for COVID 19.
- The BP's office is soliciting applications for community board members. The chair noted that Bronx Community Board Three has Sarah Torres, a high student which gives life to us old folks. Applications for those interested in board membership will need a sign off from the district manager or chairperson. New applicants should record when they attend a meeting.
- The Governors Executive Order has been extended for virtual meetings to January 2021 for in-person meetings.

District Manager's Report

Mr. Dudley wished everyone a wonderful Holiday season despite the COVID situation with health and happiness for the New Year for all.

Mr. Dudley indicated that one positive note resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has been the new and growing interest from the public, to attend virtual meetings, despite COVID. Mr. Dudley suggested that board members and the public participate on the committees as well. Bronx Community Board Three will resume all committee meetings in January 2021.

- Mr. Dudley thanked Ms. Anita Reyes from the NYCDOHMH, for requesting that residents of Bronx Community Board Three get tested at the Morrisania Health Center located at 1309 Fulton Avenue which is identified as a Rapid Testing site. The Morrisania COVID Express Clinic is excellent and is underutilized. Make an appointment today.
- The Mayor's Office will look to have more masks for the residents within Bronx Community District Three.

The DM wished everyone the best and asked that God continue to cover us into the New Year.

Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation/Youth Services Committee

Ms. Rita Jones, chairperson of the Parks and Recreation/Youth Services Committee, stated that she is in agreement with the re-utilization of the synthetic turf mini soccer field near playground # 4, as a Dog Park in Crotona Park. The park site is underutilized, has been destroyed and is struggling due to abuse by park goers. The District Manager stated that he has been in discussion with Mr. Shawn Cargil, the Administrator for Crotona Park, who is in agreement for its re-use as a Dog Park. The Crotona Park masterplan underscores the need for a Dog Run and the Parks Department is in agreement due to the abuse and neglect of the field by park goers. The field is currently closed.

Mr. Patrick Willis agrees with Ms. Jones and Mr. Dudley and added that a Dog Park would help to ensure safety along with having a specific area for dogs to conduct their business. It was also noted that Crotona Park is an off-leash park from 9am-9pm.

Motion

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It was motioned and seconded to approve the reuse of the mini synthetic soccer field in playground #4, to a Dog Park

**Yes
26**

**NO
0**

**ALL IN FAVOR
MOTION CARRIED**

A question was posed stating that if soccer field was turned into a dog park, would the soccer field be replaced at another location? The District manager stated that it would be relocated at another park location at Crotona Pk North.

Future Star Productions is hosting a "Grab and Go" on December 18 at 1344 Clinton Avenue from 4-7pm.

By-Laws & Membership

Ms. Wanda Ellis, chairperson of the By-Laws and Membership Committee, was not in attendance; therefore, Mr. John Dudley, district manager of Bronx Community Board Three, stated that Aubrey Mike was sent a certified letter for his removal due to him missing three (3) consecutive meetings for the period of September 2020 to November 2020. This action is in accordance with Bronx Community Board Three's By-Laws, Article II, Sec., 4-4C, which governs the necessary actions in removing appointed members.

Mr. Aubrey Mike was sent a certified letter with return receipt in accordance with the By-Laws, due to him missing three consecutive meetings from the period covering September 2020 through November 2020, on November 18th.

Mr. Aubrey Mike stated he was not aware that meetings were being held and he also realized that the emails from Bronx Community Three were being directed to his spam folder. Mr. Aubrey Mike stated that going forward, he would be mindful in checking his emails to ensure he receives meeting information. Mr. Mike stated that he wanted to continue to be a board member and would like for the board to consider his request to remain a board member.

Motion

A motion was made by John Dudley and seconded by Keziah Sullivan for the removal of Aubrey Mike

**YES
3**

**NO
24**

MOTION DID NOT PASS

Rev. Dr. Rivera noted that today's motion outcome in the case of Aubrey Mike, will have no bearing on whether the BP's office or other elected officials will consider you for re-appointment.

New Business

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera stated that if anyone is experiencing technical difficulties in accessing the Cisco Webex virtual teleconference platform for participation in Bronx Community Board Three general board meetings, to please email him at brivera@cb.nyc.gov.

- Rev. Abraham Jones has requested that a representative from the NYC DOT be invited to attend the next regularly scheduled General Board meeting in January 2021, to address the installation of Citibikes within Community District Three. Mr. Dudley has agreed to send correspondence regarding having a representative from DOT attend the next General Board meeting.

Benediction

Rev. Abraham Jones led us in prayer.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

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